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made a special study of Mr. Wilson's psychology that he should be able to discover a lack of patriotism in the attitude of the press toward his note of December 18. The simple truth is that he has been going it alone too fast and too far and has now heard both from the Government and from the people.

The Fish Eyed Army.

Chief Magistrate McAnous drew a strong if incomplete picture in a speech last Sunday:

"There is an army of slab sided, round shouldered, fish eyed men in this city, their fingers stained with nicotine, almost, starting from anywhere and going nowhere, open to any crime and a dangerous menace to the community. They sponge on their mothers or sisters, spending their time in idleness."

Mr. McAnous might have added that these disgusting animals are to be found in groups at night in the most frequented streets; that they obstruct traffic, insult women and foul the air with their selves and their language. Those who have observed them will echo the wish expressed by the Chief Magistrate:

"Talk about universal training. I should like to be a sergeant with eight stripes and have 200 of them down on Long Island for drill. I'd get something out of them or make life miserable for them."

The bitterest thing about the volunteer system is that, in case of war, the fish eyed army would remain at home. Until universal training comes the loungers will receive no discipline unless it is applied by the single power that exists. The Sun of Sunday told of the discovery underground in lower Manhattan of a great quantity of locust timber, seasoned by a century in water, the ideal material for nightsticks. Police Commissioner Woods knows the value of locust medicine, administered nightly at the haunts of the loungers. Just as he knows how truly Mr. McAnous has spoken. He has a year at least to effect the cure, and it would add much credit to a police administration already distinguished for remarkable results.

The Dry's Victory.

The decision of the Supreme Court sustaining the Webb-Kenyon law may be summed up in the words of Chief Justice WHITE, who says:

"We can have no doubt that Congress has complete authority to prevent parading of State authority. Congress exerted a power to coordinate the national with the State authority."

The coordination is made complete and completely effective in regard to the liquor traffic, so that henceforth the people of a State adopting prohibition may make it certain that not only they but the strangers within their gates will be dry. Although the State law may not impose any restriction upon personal use of liquor it will be impossible to get it.

Such a condition of affairs should satisfy the most ardent advocates of total abstinence. If they have or can get the votes they can make locally effective a prohibitory law. Will this consideration cause them to abate their efforts to secure the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution making the whole country dry?

A Town That Needs a Census Every Day or Two.

In its assaults on Pork, The Sun had occasion to mention an item in the Pork bill appropriating \$40,000 for a post office at Hazard, a town in Perry county, southeastern Kentucky. When we gave the population of Hazard as 537, the number credited to it by the Census of 1910, little did we realize that a metropolis may be made in six years. But we see it now, with some mail, hot from Hazard's present post office (rent \$250 a year), spread out before us.

Let us lay aside the Hazard Herald, which charges us with nothing worse than gigantic misrepresentation and monumental ignorance, and look at a picture postcard sent by J. B. Hoar, president of the Hazard Commercial Club. It shows Hazard nestled in a curve of a river, the Kentucky, we think. There are mountains far and near and a lot of nice looking but sadly modern buildings. Elsewhere on the card is shown the main street of Hazard. Six humans are in view and not one is shooting at another. A buggy stands in front of a store that has an awning; perhaps some mountain man has driven in from Sasparilla for an ice cream soda. As if the postcard were not enough to convince us that we had wronged Hazard, Mr. Hoar sends a copy of some resolutions adopted by the Commercial Club. In a letter he admits that the population of Hazard once was small: "I came here when there were 538 people." The town had begun to grow, for that was one person more than the census taker discovered. "But there are now few relics of what we found at that time."

The resolutions, in the whereas, assert that Hazard now has "a population of over 4,000 people, with a nearby country and mining population of about 4,000 more people who patronize the Hazard post office direct." Also, the coal industry goes on and one of the chief objects of the proposed public building is "to house a mine rescue station." But the most interesting reason why Hazard should get the \$40,000, is in the fourth whereas:

"And whereas in the reference of these great newspapers to providing for the public defense, they forget that in case of attack on New York city by an enemy they would be eagerly calling for the defense of their fortifications, these hardy Kentucky mountain men, famed in every war of our country for their

daring, their cunning and their exceptional marksmanship—these men whose patriotism would naturally be fired brightly by having a building in our midst over which Old Glory waves encouragingly every day of the year. Men from the county and county seat whose names memorialize the hero of the famous battle of Lake Erie—Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry—named for him by Kentucky mountain men who were with him in his daring battle and glorious victory, and loved him as a kindred spirit."

That argument, we grant, is just as good as the plea of the Florida pork hunters that Government buildings will improve community architecture. There is nothing like a Gothic granite post office to make corpses about. If Perry had had one on board the Lawrence he never would have been obliged to shift to the Niagara. As for calling on Kentuckians to defend our fortifications, of course we should, for everybody knows that a mountaineer with a turkey rifle, leaning on the battlements of Fort Wadsworth, could put an invader twenty miles away.

Our heart goes out to Hazard, with her 4,000 or 8,000 people. Perhaps by the next mail she will have 20,000. Let her look to future needs and urge Representative LANGLEY to get the Government to send her New York's downtown post office.

The Mayor's Committee on the National Defense.

We should like to see the report of the Mayor's Committee on National Defense in the hands of every man and woman who can read and of every youth old enough to understand it. For general distribution it should be translated to instruct aliens who have not learned the English language. It leaves no doubt of the necessity of universal military training. The committee, composed of civilians, was directed to study the National Guard in mobilization camp and on border service and report upon its qualifications for the first line of defense. The decision is adverse, fully confirming the judgment of General Scott, Chief of the General Staff, and of General WILLIAM A. MANN, Chief of the Militia Bureau, that the Guard would not be a dependable military force in an emergency.

The conclusions of the committee are especially valuable because New York Guardsmen themselves, as well as their employers in civil life, are quoted to show that a federalized National Guard is economically impracticable. After that it would seem superfluous to deal with the question of the Guard's value as a military force expected to do battle with an enemy's first line troops invading the country. Eighty-four per cent. of 707 Guardsmen whose enlistment terms were expiring informed the committee in writing that they would not reenlist. It learned that 65 per cent. of the Guardsmen of whom inquiry was made had to part with their regular pay or salary on entering the Federal service, and many lost their positions. In a considerable number of cases those dependent upon Guardsmen suffered privations, in spite of an appropriation made by Congress and aid extended by relief societies.

It is true that patriotic employers, including many corporations, kept the names of absconces on the pay rolls, but other employers refused to answer the committee's inquiries. There were cases, no doubt, of employers who could not afford to maintain a business with a reduced staff. In short, the National Guard scheme of defense was economically unsound because, while more than an adequate number of unmarried men of little economic value were available, men with family and business responsibilities were called to the colors and compelled to serve.

Coming to the military aspects of the experiment of mobilization and training, recruiting failed to bring the Guard up to war strength, the deficiency being 14,000. Therefore the committee believes that the complement of 400,000 enlisted men and 17,000 officers, as provided for in the national defense act, is visionary. As to equipment, the National Guard could not get together its peace strength supply, and the Federal Government was found wanting in the emergency. Even the New York Guard, in advance as it was of most State organizations, proved to be unprepared for active service. Backwardness in training of commands on the border was unavoidable, because 63 per cent. of the Guard consisted of untrained men (recruits) "three months after the call."

It is significant that National Guardsmen as well as employers who answered the question declared with almost unanimity for universal training as the only solution of the problem of preparedness. It matters little that the National Defense act was new when mobilization became necessary. We agree with the committee that there would have been the same confusion and equipment shortcomings if the act had been a year old, because the mistake of divided control still persisted in spite of what was called federalization. The only conclusion is that if the country will not spend enormous sums to keep up a large regular army and provide the structure of a great volunteer organization, then the country, if unwilling to be defenseless, must adopt universal training.

The Administration sadly reflects that the dove of peace is sometimes too much of a parrot.

There is Increasing Opposition to

Uncle Sam dredging way down upon the Suwanee River.

A great many people will find the Supreme Court decision dry reading.

Mr. ARNOLD BENNETT may now write an essay on "How to Live on Twenty-four Hours and Twenty-five Cents a Day."

It appears that no Federal building authorized by the proposed public building bill could be erected before last only 1,076 days, and that for ten whole days or so at the close of 1919 no Government building would be going up anywhere throughout the length and breadth of the country.

So far, OLIVER OSBORNE's story compares quite unfavorably with EDWARD EVERETT HALL's "My Double and How He Udded Me."

Nobody loves the sagebrush, yet somebody is always trying to uplift it. This is a difficult task since its antecedents are so bad. Nevada claimed a long time because she was called the "Silver State," but later she changed the plant because of the bitter flavor it imparted to the grouse; prospectors, settlers, stockmen despised it because it encumbered the earth. It was fit only for rattlesnakes to coil in and strike or for coyotes to blend their tawny skins to it.

No lot in the hour of man's need is "eureka." He said that sagebrush was the best road building material in the West. Now Idaho claims it in the despoiled weed of a great wealth and the solution of the problem of potato shortage.

The Idaho poet, who called for a federal law to lift the curse from the plant, we know well and should love, may now consider himself even with those who jeered and refused to forego their whim.

The police diet squad is game to the core. It professes complete gusto with a breakfast of oatmeal, toast and coffee, but in the hour of release will not a rush be made for indigestible sausage and buckwheat cakes or a chop like a small ham?

Senator OWEN of Oklahoma, who has introduced a joint resolution proposing to take away from the United States Supreme Court the right to declare an act of Congress unconstitutional, has said in a sketch of himself that he is an "advocate of cloture, rural credits, short ballot, preferential ballot, initiative and referendum and gateway amendments." No gateway is inconspicuous enough to escape Mr. OWEN'S attention.

King CONSTANTINE has received a broad card and another ultimatum. Why not give him an ultimatum card and let him have it punched at proper intervals?

If Germany is in earnest for peace, let her in advance hand over as security to the Allies her entire navy—Major-General Sir SAM HUGHES.

History records no such offer of collateral. Sir SAM'S method has a fine Hastings sound, but it would postpone peace indefinitely.

In this State 313,583 persons owned automobiles last year, and any pedestrian will confess that in the twelve months he had to dodge every one of them.

I am strenuously opposed to any kind of military service, believing that it is fostered by the same class who in earlier years participated in and sanctioned such burning, duels and feuds.

A large majority, in fact an overwhelming majority, the good and the great, the high and the low. If Mr. FORD is correct there should be no difficulty in providing a sufficient army and navy for this country.

The United States Supreme Court has given King ALABAMA a body blow. Prohibition, both in countries at war and in those at peace, is making mighty strides toward ultimate domination of the earth because mankind has decreed that anything that militates against efficiency must be suppressed. Possibly the non-alcoholic generations of the future will find, because of their devotion to the water wagon, less difficulty in overcoming the three great foes to progress, namely, disease, poverty and war, than we and our ancestors have experienced.

Turkish tobacco has gone up, and still there is no peace.

Mr. LAWSON'S antics indicate that he knows just how far he can go with that kind of investigation.

NATIONAL PROHIBITION.

Discussion of the Power of Congress to Enact It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. William West is singularly confused on constitutional matters. Of course if the people adopt an amendment to our Constitution authorizing the Congress to legislate on the liquor traffic it will have that power; it is no more. Anti-slavery action was a war measure taken by the Executive; when the Congress took up the matter after the war the first step was to submit to the people the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, which gave it the power to act.

Section 8 of Article I, the so-called "general welfare" clause, confers only the "power" of taxation; the words that Mr. West quotes do not give the Congress "power," but are a limitation of the power of taxation. The question is not even discussable. Jacob M. Dickinson, in an address before the American Bar Association, referred to Mr. West's view as a "barbarous evocation" of the clause. Of course if the Congress has "power" to do anything which it conceives to be for the "general welfare" of the United States the rest of the Constitution is surplusage; but the rule is, as stated fully in United States versus Hodges, that the Tenth Amendment is still in full force and vigor, and that the "powers" not granted to the United States by the Constitution are still reserved to the States, or to the people.

Mr. West is right to read and study the Constitution of the United States; but he must do so not to find support for any particular view he may entertain, but to ascertain its meaning. To neglect the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States constraining that series of amendments which is known as the "Bill of Rights" is to neglect "Hamlet."

Whether any purely political body ought to legislate on strictly "moral" issues is at least debatable, but it is not debatable that it has no business to do so if it has not in good faith the power to enforce its laws. That it has not this power now is admitted by the agitation to confer it by constitutional amendment. To urge the Congress to act without authority is as "immoral" as to take a drink.

The action in Utah was proper. Utah was a Territory of the United States, over which the exercised proprietary rights. When the Territory became a State the United States law became effective. I understand that Utah has anti-polygamy laws as effective as the Maine prohibition legislation.

J. JOHNSON.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 6.

Relation of Congress to States and Territories.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. West's letter, which discusses especially the question whether Congress has constitutional power to declare State liquor licenses a nuisance and to overthrow State judgment, argues that the Congress has such power. The question is not whether Congress has such power, but whether its authority takes to be historical precedents to prove its contention.

The first illustration cited by Mr. West is far astray. He says, "Congress overthrew State judgment in 1845 by passing the anti-slavery amendment." The Congress did not pass the anti-slavery amendment; it passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which gave Congress the power to enforce its provisions. The Congress did not pass the anti-slavery amendment; it passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which gave Congress the power to enforce its provisions.

Again, he says, "Congress overthrew the Territory of Utah by passing the Edmunds bill against polygamy." Congress had an undisputed right to enact any law governing the Territories, of which Utah was one, but there is a wide difference in the constitutional situation of a sovereign State and a Territory of the United States. The one has full rights; the other has a dependency, the sovereign power resting in Congress.

Referring to the provision of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, stipulating that Congress shall have power to provide for the general welfare, the United States Supreme Court has argued that this provision "gives Congress power to place an effective embargo upon any business adjudged to be inimical to the general welfare." The application of this argument would depend entirely upon the viewpoint of the Congress and of public opinion as to what would be "inimical to the general welfare."

In my opinion, and doubtless the opinion of Mr. West, alcohol as a beverage ought to be classed with other habit forming drugs, the use of which is inimical to the general welfare, and ought to be prohibited. Unfortunately, however, the nation has many sovereign States, and none have reached this viewpoint, which would possibly give Congress prohibitory jurisdiction.

The Congress, however, has taxing jurisdiction and legislative control of interstate traffic in liquor, by which means it can, without touching the States, and without any attempt by the Congress to prohibit the sale of liquor in sovereign States would be represented in the present State of public opinion. The only undisputed way for coercing any sovereign State in such a manner is therefore by constitutional amendment, and the States of the Union have absolute power to write into the basic law of the land, the Federal Constitution, an amendment exterminating the traffic in alcoholic beverages, and this will undoubtedly be done in the near future.

Mr. West lugs in the question of local option by making the following statement: "Local option as applied to liquor has no base in ethics; as well local optionize gambling or polygamy." This is merely play on the word "option." In practice, local option means local action, and is an interference with the liquor traffic, as proved by the desperate efforts they are making to prevent the enactment of such laws in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. A local option law simply gives to the people of the municipality the right to say whether or not licenses shall be granted. There is no more "option" in this than there is in a movement for statewide or national prohibition, as under civil government, where the people rule, the majority always has the option to repeal the action of a previous majority. Twenty-three States have enacted statewide prohibition laws and in twenty of them these laws came by the local option route, or otherwise expressed, by progressive prohibition.

The contention of Mr. West about the word "indicate" that ethics has geographical boundaries; that it is immoral for the people of a municipality to have the power to regulate their own

liquor problem, but it would be entirely correct for the people of the State to do so. This is, of course, absurd.

SAMUEL WILSON,
Editor American Issue.

NEWARK, N. J., January 6.

Facile Definition of the Objects of Legislation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Mr. Yearley and Mr. West are both wrong as to what Congress could or should do to smite the rum demon. All that is necessary in order to establish a perpetual area of drought is that Congress should enact a law providing that the desire for liquor and the stimulation or relaxation that results from its use shall be forever abolished. This would immediately destroy the demand and traffic by cutting off the demand and the coarse persons who now guzzle beer would find their highest enjoyment in foaming beakers of sarsaparilla.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 6.

MR. WILSON'S SPEECH ON THE WIRELESS WAVES?

A Plea That Radio Operators May Hear the Address at the Induction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The induction of the President is an event of national interest.

During each inauguration period there are thousands who are eager to see and to hear the President but who are prohibited from doing so, principally on account of the distance from the station and the expense to be incurred in travelling to the capital.

Thousands of these people could enjoy this treat through the agency of the radio telegraph through the cooperation of the government officers in charge of the radio transmitters could be arranged in front of and just above the head of the President that would catch and transmit his every word to the powerful radio station at Arlington, Va., there to be retransmitted by radio telegraph as the signals from this station are heard over practically the entire United States.

At the present time there are Government, commercial and amateur stations in the United States capable of receiving this wireless speech. The thousands of the numerous vessels within range on the sea. Hundreds of these stations are so arranged that from two to ten or more persons can "listen in" at the same time, thus making such an event of great benefit to the people all over the country.

W. HAROLD WARREN.

METZ PARK, N. J., JANUARY 9.

FAIR NOTICE.

What We Have to Expect From Abroad After the War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Your editorial article "Fair Notice" should be pasted in the hat of every man engaged in manufacture, whether employer or employee, whose year's action is in production, whatever his age, are not yet behind him.

Should the "admirable Josephus" reinforced by the superadmirable Secretary Redfield, ask for bids for woolen goods and other manufactured supplies for the equipment of the new army, the disparity in prices between foreign and domestic bids would be quite as great as in the bids for 14 and 16 inch shells. This is true of the present, was true in the past and will be true in the future when world manufactures has returned to the normal conditions that preceded the European war.

This difference in prices is due to the difference in cost of production, and the difference in cost of production is due to